

2. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein said mammalian γ -BNP derivative comprises the amino acid sequence shown by amino acid Nos. 27-134 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

3. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein said second antibody is reactive with the amino acid sequence shown by amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

4. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said second antibodies is labeled with a detectable label or is immobilized.

B2 5. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 4, wherein said detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance or a particle.

6. (Amended) A kit for immunoassay specific for a mammalian γ -BNP derivative comprising a first antibody reactive with mammalian α -BNP and a second antibody reactive with mammalian prepro-BNP or a γ -BNP derivative and not α -BNP.

7. (Amended) The kit of claim 6, wherein at least one of said first and said second antibodies is labeled with a detectable label or is immobilized.

Please add the following new claims:

9. (New) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein said mammalian γ -BNP derivative is encoded by the nucleic acid sequence shown by nucleic acid Nos. 79-402 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

B3 10. (New) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein said second antibody is reactive with the amino acid sequence encoded by nucleic acid sequence shown by nucleic acid Nos. 79-306 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

11. (New) The kit of claim 6, wherein said mammalian γ -BNP derivative comprises the amino acid sequence shown by amino acid Nos. 27-134 of SEQ ID NO:2.

12. (New) The kit of claim 6, wherein said second antibody is reactive with the amino acid sequence shown by amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. (New) The kit of claim 7, wherein said detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance or a particle.

14. (New) The kit of claim 6, wherein at least one of said first and second antibodies is a monoclonal-antibody.

15. (New) The kit of claim 6, wherein at least one of said first and second antibodies is a polyclonal-antibody.

16. (New) The kit of claim 6, wherein said immunoassay is a competitive- or sandwich-assay.

17. (New) A method for assaying for a mammalian γ -BNP derivative comprising:
contacting a sample to be assayed with a first antibody reactive with mammalian α -BNP and a second antibody reactive with mammalian prepro-BNP or a γ -BNP derivative and not α -BNP, and
measuring the amount of said mammalian γ -BNP derivative to which said first and second antibody is bound.

18. (New) The method of assaying of claim 17, wherein at least one of said first and said second antibodies is labeled with a detectable label or is immobilized.

19. (New) The method of assaying of claim 18, wherein said detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance, or a particle.

B3 20. (New) The method of assaying of claim 17, wherein at least one of said first and second antibodies is a monoclonal-antibody.

21. (New) The method of assaying of claim 17, wherein at least one of said first and second antibodies is a polyclonal-antibody.

22. (New) The method of assaying of claim 17, wherein said sample is assayed by a competitive- or sandwich- assay.